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September 11th, 1855.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Vienna, dated 1st May, 1855, transmitting their publications acknowledged this evening.

From the Royal Society of Sciences of Upsala, dated 14th Nov. 1855, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy.

From the Royal Russian Mineralogical Society of St. Petersburg, acknowledging receipt of the Proceedings and Journal of the Academy, and transmitting the donations announced this evening.

From the Royal Society of Sciences of Göttingen, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, and transmitting the donation announced this evening.

Dr. Leidy presented for publication in the Journal "Contributions to a knowledge of the Marine Invertebrate Fauna of the Coasts of Rhode Island and New Jersey." Referred to Prof. Haldeman, Dr. Bridges and Mr. Ashmead.

September 18th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, dated Munich, 8th May, 1855, accompanying the donation acknowledged at last meeting.

Also, a letter from the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, dated 22d July, 1855, giving notice of their approaching anniversary celebration.

Prof. Chas. D. Meigs communicated a paper by Prof. A. Retzius, of Stockholm, Sweden, entitled, "On artificially formed Skulls from the Ancient World;" which, being intended for publication in the Proceedings, was referred to Dr. J. Aitken Meigs, Dr. Leidy and Dr. C. D. Meigs.

Major Le Conte presented for publication in the Proceedings, the following papers: "Descriptions of new species of *Astacus* from Georgia;" "On a new species of *Gelasimus*;" "Remarks on a new species of American *Cimex*;" all of which were referred to the following committee: Dr. Leidy, Dr. Bridges and Mr. S. Ashmead.

September 25th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The committee on Dr. Leidy's "Contributions to a knowledge of the Marine Invertebrate Fauna of the Coasts of Rhode Island and New Jersey," reported in favor of publication in the Journal.

The committees on papers by Major Le Conte, read September 18th, and by Prof. Retzius, of Stockholm, read same date, severally reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings:

Descriptions of new species of Astacus from Georgia.

By JOHN LE CONTE.

A few years ago there were but three or four species of this genus known to inhabit the United States; lately Mr. Girard, in the proceedings of this Society vol. vi. page 86. has increased the number to eighteen or nineteen; but one however is from the South, *A. Blandingii*. I now add to this number eight more: two of them from the upper part of the State of Georgia, the rest from the low country. There are two more species which I have seen, but have not been able to obtain. What number of species are found in the rivers of the South is not yet ascertained. All those which I have seen were inhabitants of ditches, ponds and rivulets of clear water, or formed burrows in the mud of wet ground. Their extreme similarity renders it difficult to distinguish the species from each other, and this difficulty will undoubtedly increase as the number of species is multiplied. To what extent this number may reach cannot be guessed at; it appears however that when these animals come to be more closely studied, this number will be very great, and the passage of one species into another become almost imperceptible; so that among Crustaceans we shall have an analogous difficulty to that which exists among Uniones. Their color is generally lost with their life, so that it is of little value in the description. All that I have ever seen were much of the same color, a reddish-brown, inclining to a dark olive. The shape of the rostrum and of the chelæ and the size of the Areola vertebralis, afford the best characteristic marks. I have never known this last character to vary in any degree. In the two others there may occur slight differences of development, not however so great as to be of any moment. I do not find that any marks can be definitely pointed out, by which we can distinguish those which are subterranean from those which are aquatic.

A. TROGLODYTES. Rostrum paulo concavum, obtusiusculum cum acumine parvo, utrinque unidenticulatum, qui denticulus obtusus est, sæpius obsoletus, in junioribus magis conspicuus. Lamina antennalis subdolabriformis, pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalothorax grosse et sparse punctatus, lateribus antice et postice paucigranulosus; linea ordinaria sulcata. Thorax supra grosse et sparse punctatus, lateribus granulosus, granulis interdum vix conspicuis. Areola suturalis medio angusta. Dorsum grosse et parce punctatum. Chela magna, lata, evasa, tuberculata margine interiore dentata; digitus costatus æquales, punctati basi tuberculati, interior concavus, exterior convexus. Carpus latere interno spinis dentiformibus, numerosis, spina media majore. Brachium margine superiore serratum, superficie inferiore lineis duabus spinularum, antice utrinque spina longiore. Caudæ lamellæ intermediæ pars anterior utrinque trispinosa.

Long. 3.7. Cephalo-thorax 1.16. Thorax .6. Abdomen 1.4. Cauda .54. Antennæ 3. Chela 1.5 lat. .55, forceps .9.

Habitat in Georgiæ oryzaceis, ubi spiracula 4 unc. alta format.

A. BLANDINGII. Rostrum concavum acuminatum, versus apicem vix utrinque unidenticulatum, sed lateribus subcontinuis ad acuminis extremitatem. Lamina antennalis subdolabriformis, pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalothorax et thorax supra punctati latioribus granulosus, hic spina parva e medio marginis lateralis; linea ordinaria non sulcata. Areola suturalis angusta. Dorsum glabrum seriebus parvis punctorum transversalium. Chela longiuscula, angusta, subcylindracea, punctata cum granulis: digitus æquales. Carpus extus punctatus; intus granulosus, granuli quidam anteriores quinque aut sex spiniformes. Brachium extus glabrum, intus parte anteriore granulosum, superficie inferiore lineis duabus granulorum acutiorum, vel spinarum parvarum. Caudæ lamellæ intermediæ pars anterior utrinque bispinosa.

Harlan, Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. 3, 464; Med. and Phys. Res. 229, pl. fig. 1.

Cambarus Blandingii Er. Wieg. Archiv, 1846, 1, 98. Girard, Proc. Acad. 6, 91.

Long. 3.5. Cephalothorax 1.16. Thorax .6. Abdomen 1.2. Cauda .54.

Habitat in Georgiæ et Carolinæ regionibus intermediis.

A. SPICULIFER. Rostrum concavum longissime acuminatum, denticulo parvo utrinque ad acuminis basin. Lamina antennalis dolabriformis, pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalothorax punctatus, granulis perpaucis parte inferiore lateris, linea ordinaria sulcata. Thorax punctatus spinis duabus e medio marginis lateris anterioris. Areola suturalis lata. Dorsum glabrum seriebus parvis punctorum transversalium, macula rubra in unamquamque articulationem ad latera. Chela magna lata, tuberculosa margine inferiore dentata, digiti prope recti, æquales, tuberculati et punctati, non costati. Carpus tuberculatus, latere inferiore tuberculis anterioribus majoribus, spiniformibus; latere inferiore seriebus duabus spinarum. Caudæ lamellæ intermediæ pars anterior utrinque bispinosa.

Long. 3.8 unc. Cephalothorax 1.3. Thorax 5. Abdomen 1.4. Cauda .6. Chela 1.43. Antenna 3. forceps .8.

Habitat in Georgiæ superiore.

A. FOSSARUM. Rostrum concavum, acuminatum, versus apicem utrinque sub-unidenticulatum. Lamina antennalis pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalothorax supra punctatus, lateribus sparse tuberculosus, linea ordinaria sulcata. Thorax supra punctatus, lateribus granulosus. Areola suturalis modica. Dorsum glabrum seriebus parvis punctorum transversalium. Chela modice lata, tuberculata, margine inferiore dentata, digitis gracilibus, carinatis, punctatis, interiore concavo, exteriore rectiusculo. Carpus tuberculatus, tuberculis lateris interioris dentiformibus. Brachium punctatum, latere superiore serrato, inferiore seriebus duabus denticulorum. Caudæ lamellæ intermediæ pars anterior utrinque trispinosa.

Long 2.6 in. Cephalothorax .8. Thorax .4. Abdomen 1. Cauda .4. Antenna 1.5. Chela 1. latitud. 3. forceps .45.

Habitat in fossis Georgiæ inferioris.

A. MANICULATUS. Rostrum subplanum, vix concavum, obtusum cum acumine, versus apicem utrinque unidenticulatum. Lamina antennalis pedunculum æquans. Cephalo-thorax supra punctatus, lateribus sparsim granulosus. Areola suturalis angustissima, stria solum. Dorsum sicut in prioribus. Chela parva, angusta, tuberculato-punctata, margine inferiore dentata, digiti recti, carinati, punctati. Carpus intus paucidentatus, dentibus tribus superioribus majoribus spiculæformibus. Brachium punctatum, latere superiore vix serrato, duabus tamen spinis brevibus anterioribus, inferiore seriebus duabus spinularum. Lamellæ caudalis intermediæ pars anterior trispinosa.

Long. 2.3. Cephalothorax .7. Thorax .35. Abdomen .82. Cauda .43. Antenna 1.3. Chela .5. Lat .15 forceps .3.

Habitat cum priore.

A. PENICILLATUS. Rostrum vix concavum, obtusum cum acumine. Lamina antennalis pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalo-thorax supra punctatus, lateribus totis granulatis, linea ordinaria sulcata. Thorax punctatus, lateribus solum antice granulosus. Areola suturalis satis lata. Dorsum sicut in prioribus. Chela latiuscula punctato-granulosa, margine inferiore serrata, digitis rectis costatis. Carpus punctatus latere inferiore spinoso-tuberculatus, tuberculorum quorum infimus major. Brachium punctatum, latere superiore spinoso-tuberculatum, inferiore seriebus duabus dentium. Lamella caudalis intermedia pars anterior utrumque bispinosa.

Mas latere inferiore chelarum pilositatem densam habet spongiam referente.

Long. 2.6. Cephalo-thorax .8. Thorax .4. Abdomen 1. Cauda .4. Antenna 1.5. Chela 1.1, lat. .3; forceps .45.

A. ANGUSTATUS. Rostrum concavum, valde acuminatum, utrinque versus apicem fortiter et acute unidenticulatum. Lamina antennalis pedunculum antennalem æquans. Cephalo-thorax punctatus, parcius ad latera, adeo ut vix paucis punctis notatur, linea ordinaria apice spina armata. Thorax totus punctatus, parcius ad latera, tuberculis vel granulis nullis. Areola suturalis lata. Dorsum sicut in prioribus. Chela parva, angusta, subcylindrica, punctata, sine tuberculis

aut granulis, excepto margine interiore qui paucis denticulis inconspicuis instructus est, digiti recti punctati carinati. Carpus glaber, punctis tribus vel quatuor. Brachium glabrum, spinulis paucis latere superiore: inferiore seriebus duabus spinarum, quarum duæ anteriores majores et longiores. Caudæ lamella intermedia utrinque trispinosa.

Long. 1.95 Cephalo-thorax .6. Thorax .25. Abdomen .8. Cauda .3. Antenna .9. Chela .6. latitud. .2, forceps .3.

Habitat in Georgia inferiore, in aquæ puræ rivulos qui inter colliculos arēnosos (*sand-hills*) currunt.

A. LATIMANUS. Rostrum breve, concaviusculum, obtusum cum acumine parvo. Lamina antennalis brevis subdolabriformis, pedunculi antennalis articulum inferiorem solum æquante. Cephalo-thorax supra punctatus, lateribus granulosus, linea ordinaria sulcata. Thorax supra punctatus, lateribus valde granulosus, areola suturalis modica. Dorsum sicut in aliis. Chela magna, latissima, extrorsum marginata, grosse punctata, ad latus internum tuberculata, digiti æquales, recti, late costati, punctati, interiore extrorsum et introrsum, exteriori introrsum tuberculato. Carpus punctatus, latere interiore tuberculatus, spina satis magna e medio prominente. Brachium punctatum, latere superiore bi-vel-trispinosum, spinis parvis, inferiore spinarum seriebus duabus. Lamella caudæ intermedia bispinosa.

Long 3.3. Cephalo-thorax 1. Thorax .6. Abdomen 12. Cauda .5. Antenna 2.6. Chela 1.2, latit. .65 forceps .6.

Habitat in Georgia superiore.

A. ADVENA. Rostrum subconcauum, breve, obtusum cum acumine parvo. Lamina antennalis parva, articulum pedunculi antennalis inferiorem solum æquans. Cephalo-thorax supra grosse punctatus, lateribus granulosus. Areola suturalis angusta. Dorsum sicut in aliis. Chela breviuscula, latiuscula, tuberculata, margine exteriori et interiore serrata, digitis carinatis, punctatis. Carpus grosse punctatus, latere interiore spinoso-tuberculatus. Brachium latere superiore, serie unica spinarum parvarum, quæ sensim deorsim diminuuntur, inferiore seriebus duabus spinarum parvarum. Caudæ lamella intermedia utrinque bispinosa.

Long. 2.9. Cephalo-thorax .9. Thorax .5. Abdomen 1.3. Cauda .4. Antenna 1.5. Chela .85. lat. 4. forceps .45.

Habitat in Georgia inferiore.

Hyeme vitam degit subterraneam. Æstate in fossis invenitur. Differt a præcedente magnitudine; chela non marginata et digitis non tuberculatis, excepto margine interiore digiti interioris.

In all the species of this genus which have come under my observation, I have observed that the following characters are found. The lamina antennalis is dolabriform, inwardly fringed, outwardly thickened, straight and ending in a small spine. The dorsum is smooth with transverse rows of punctures. The carpus has a deep longitudinal impression. The males also have on the second and third of the small legs a tooth directed inwards, in some species only on the second.

In drawing up these descriptions it will be observed that I have preserved the old name of *Astacus* in preference to the new appellation of *Cambarus*. The very slight and not very apparent differences which have been adopted to distinguish these two genera appear to me of little moment.

On a new species of Gelasimus.

By JOHN LE CONTE.

One species only of *Gelasimus* has long been known as an inhabitant of our salt marshes. I now offer to the Society, the description of a second species, found on the sea coast of New Jersey. It seems hitherto to have escaped the no-

tice of naturalists. Last summer our associate Mr. Ashmead brought some from Beesley's Point, N. J., and I cannot find any description agreeing with it. All the other species in the books except one, appear to have been brought from tropical countries. I have added a detailed description of the *G. pugilator* or common species which is said to be found along our whole line of coast, in order that a comparison may be made between the two. This I have of course placed first.

GELASIMUS PUGILATOR, *Bosc.* Carapace smooth, shining, in front sinuous and three-lobed, the middle lobe the largest, bent down, the lateral lobes but slightly prominent likewise bent down; margined, the lateral margins ciliate; anterior exterior angles right. Back impressed as it were with the letter H, a small depressed spot generally paler colored about one fourth of the distance from the outer edge of the fore part on each side. Lower eye-lid finely serrate, cheeks and feet except the chelæ hairy. Tail strongly ciliate. Tarsi sharp, slightly curved. Color dark brownish olive, all the feet lighter colored, chelæ nearly white.

Male.—With either the right or left chela very large, inflated, margined, the inner margin of the palm bifurcate near the extremity. Palm and carpus granulate; brachium with short irregular rows of granules, the immoveable finger straight deeply grooved from the point to near the centre, with a triple row of small teeth, and one large one near the middle, the moveable finger curved, toothed like the moveable one, with sometimes three larger teeth, and slightly costate: small chela smooth the fingers nearly straight.

Length .65; breadth anteriorly 1 inch, posteriorly .4. Large chela 1.7, small .4.

This species which is found on the salt marshes and the edges of creeks of the sea shore in innumerable quantities, was first described by Bosc in his *Histoire Naturelle des Crustacées*, vol. vi. page 96, and afterwards by Say, in the *Journal of our Society* vol. i. page 71. From its being so common and so well known I omit saying anything on its manners. It was formerly considered the same as the *G. vocans* of Brazil or Amboyne. Whether it is so or not; remains yet to be determined, the descriptions of the South American or Indian animal which are to be found in the books being so imperfect, that it is impossible to decide the question.

G. MINAX. Carapace very finely granulate with a number of small tubercles near the anterior exterior angles, front as in the former species only the lateral lobes are much wider and more bent down; margined, the margin very finely serrate and ciliate on the sides; anterior exterior angle rounded. Back impressed with the letter H, with an oblique stria running from the lateral lobe of the front of the carapace on each side to the upright arms of the impressed letter. Both the eye-lids are bluntly serrate. Cheeks and feet as in *G. pugilator*, except the latter are paler colored, as is the tail likewise.

Male. With the right or left chela very large, inflated, outwardly scarcely margined, inwardly margined as in the former species, but the bifurcation commences lower down. Palm and carpus covered with tubercles, those on the interior edge of the latter forming a kind of crest. Immoveable finger straight with a double row of blunt teeth, which near the point are separated by an excavation for the reception of the point of the moveable finger, the middle is furnished with a single larger tooth. The moveable finger is very much curved with a triple row of blunt teeth, three of which behind the middle and two before it are larger; at each of the joints there are one or two red spots, brachium with short irregular rows of small tubercles: tail ciliate speckled with black; small chela, and feet like those of *G. pugilator*.

Female chelæ like the small one of the male.

Length 1 inch; breadth anteriorly 1.5; posteriorly .65. Large chela 2.8; small, .6.

Remarks on two Species of American Cimex.

By JOHN LE CONTE.

REDUVIUS PUNGENS. Black, shining, wings opaque. Head a little hairy, antennæ yellowish brown, slightly hairy, first joint shorter than the head, second, fourth and fifth much longer, subequal, third very small. Thorax slightly margined, strongly constricted in the middle, the anterior portion rounded and longitudinally sulcate, the posterior portion transverse. First pair of legs hairy on the under side, as are the thighs also of the second pair, but the tibiæ and tarsi of the hinder legs all over.

Length .8 of an inch. Inhabits Georgia.

This species is remarkable for the intense pain caused by its bite. I do not know whether it ever willingly plunges its rostrum into any person; but when caught or unskilfully handled, it always stings. In this case the pain is almost equal to that of the bite of a snake, and the swelling and irritation which result from it will sometimes last for a week. In very weak and irritable constitutions it may even prove fatal.

This *R. pungens* too nearly resembles the *R. personatus* of Europe to be authoritatively pronounced different. As however I can find no very detailed description of the European animal, and as it is difficult to suppose that it would be imported from its native country, and yet be found in the Southern States, I have concluded to give it provisionally the name which it bears at the head of this article. Its food consists of flies and other soft insects, which it catches very adroitly and soon deprives of all their juices.

CONORHINUS SANGUISUGA. Black, head and thorax granulate, neck rather long projecting. Antennæ slender, first joint much shorter than the head, second, fourth and fifth subequal about the length of the head, tip of the rostrum brown. Thorax triangular, with a tubercle in front on each side, slightly constricted before the middle, in front with two raised lines diverging backwards, and most raised in front, margined with red; scutellum with two raised diverging lines directed forwards and joined at the base. Wings granulate at the base, with two triangular red spots on each, one at the base, the other near the middle on the outside. Abdomen with six red spots on each side, both above and beneath.

Length 1 inch. Inhabits Georgia.

This insect, equally with the former, inflicts a most painful wound. It is remarkable also for sucking the blood of mammals, particularly of children. I have known its bite followed by very serious consequences, the patient not recovering from its effects for nearly a year.

The many relations which we have of spider bites frequently proving fatal, have no doubt arisen from the stings of these insects or others of the same genera. When the disease called spider bite is not an anthrax or carbuncle, it is undoubtedly occasioned by the bite of an insect, by no means however of a spider. Among the many species of Araneidæ which we have in the United States, I have never seen one capable of inflicting the slightest wound. Ignorant persons may easily mistake a *Cimex* for a spider. I have known a physician who sent to me the fragments of a large ant, which he supposed was a spider, that came out of his grandchild's head.

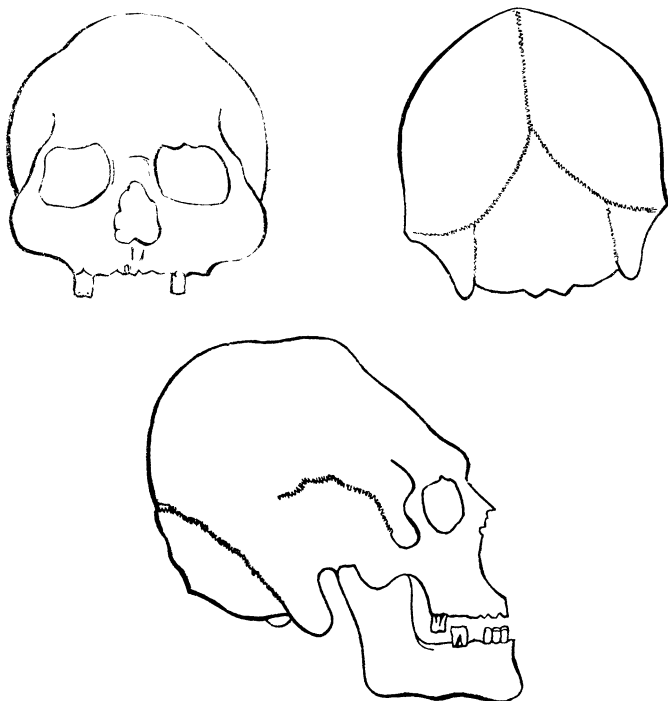
On artificially formed Skulls from the Ancient World.

By PROF. A. RETZIUS, (Stockholm, Sweden).

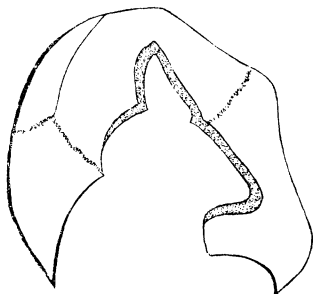
[Communicated by Prof. Charles D. Meigs.]

Several years ago the eminent anatomist, Professor Joseph Hyrtl, of Vienna, had the kindness to send me a cast of an artificially formed skull of great interest. The original, found at Grafenegg, in Austria, has, by its owner, Count August von Brauner, been considered as having belonged to an individual of the *Avarian Huns*, who lived in the neighborhood from the end of the seventh to the beginning of the eighth century. Of this skull I have given in 1844 a description in the Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, which was the following year inserted both in *Hornschuch's Archiv Skandinavischer Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte*, and in *Müller's Archiv für Physiologie*. I showed there that this skull, which had been considered remarkable for its length, certainly was extremely high, but on the contrary *short*, or of the *brachycephalic* form, to which the skulls of the Avarians, as related with those of the Finlanders, must belong. This opinion gained at the time very little approbation, because Dr. *Tschudi*, renowned for his travels and researches in South America, shortly after with so much certainty declared that the skull in question was of Peruvian origin, and supposed that it had been brought over from Peru to Austria with other collections. *Tschudi's* opinion gained many adherents, and the question about the custom in the ancient world of forming the head artificially sank for some time in oblivion. Through a very excellent treatise by Doctor *Fitzinger*, in the Transactions of the Imperial Academy in Vienna, it has been shown that the skull found at Grafenegg must undoubtedly have belonged to an individual of the ancient inhabitants of the country. He has not only wholly explained all important circumstances concerning this skull, but has also got a quite similar one from Atzgerrsdorf, in south Austria $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Vienna. This had been dug out of the earth in presence of the physician of the place, *Müller*. This skull, as well as the original of the one first mentioned, are now at the Imperial anatomical museum at Vienna. The author shows the resemblance between these skulls and those which have been found at Krim and described by Messrs. *Ratke* and *Charles Meyer*. He mentions the account of *Hippocrates* (de aëre aquis et locis Lib. 1.) about the macrocephali or Scythians in the neighborhood of the Moetian moor, who had artificially formed skulls. Further he quotes *Pomponius Mela* (de situ orbis Lib. 1. chap. 19), who says that the custom of changing the form of the head reigned also among the inhabitants of the Bosphorus; *Pliny* the older, who accounts for the macrocephali in the neighborhood of Ceresus in Nattolia on the coast of the Black Sea, the Keresum of the present day; also *Stephanus Byzantinus* (Geographica,) who tells us of macrocephalic Scythians among the inhabitants of Colchis, now Mingrelia, on the east coast of the Black Sea. He quotes from *Strabo* (Lib. II, Chap. 16), the Derbikks on the Caucasus, towards the Caspian sea, and the Sigyns, Median colonists, who are said to have lived in the valley of the Danube at the river Taler, as nations who have used to change the form of the head, so that the forehead was thus put forward. Doctor *Fitzinger* mentions also another circumstance of importance in connexion with the description of these skulls, namely, a medal of unknown origin, representing the destruction of the town of Aquileja by *Attila*, with *Attila's* head in *profile*, with the same form as the skulls of Avarians before mentioned. The same medal in gold is preserved in the royal medal cabinet at Stockholm, where the Rep. has had the opportunity to see it, and to agree with Dr. *Fitzinger*. Beside these important informations respecting the singularly formed heads of the Avarians, this excellent treatise contains also a close examination of the human skulls found in the forest of Vienna in the Calvarian mountain, which were described in 1830 by Count Rasumowsky in Oken's *Isis*, as having an extraordinary form, and which the Rep. in his former treatise did unjustly believe to be of the same form as the Avarian skulls. Dr. *Fitzinger* has examined these heads and has found that they are of the Slavic form. This learned treatise is furnished

with four extremely good illustrations, two of which represent skulls of Avarians and the other Slavic ones from the mount of Calvaria. A perfect harmony with the before mentioned skulls of Avarians is shown in a head found in Switzerland, of which M. *Troyon* has sent drawings to the Rep.; copies of them are here represented reduced to a quarter's size.



The original is preserved in M. *Troyon's* archeologic collections at Bel-air in the Canton Vaud near Lausanne. The skull was found at the bottom of a tomb of very high age, no ornaments or tools were in the neighborhood. Of more than 200 tombs which have been examined by M. *Troyon*, this was the only one of that kind.



M. *Troyon* has on the same occasion given several informations concerning discoveries of other skulls of the same singular form at the village St. Romain in Savoy, in similar tombs, likewise without ornaments and tools. These skulls were so fragile that they fell in pieces shortly after they had been dug out of the earth. Nevertheless, Dr. *Gosse*, at Geneva, has succeeded in preserving the upper part of one. The Rep. has through the kindness of Mr. *Troyon* got the opportunity here to show a drawing in quarter size.

There is no doubt that these skulls have belonged to the same nations as the above

mentioned skulls from Austria that is, from Avarians, who probably accompanied Attila's army. In connexion with this it deserves also to be mentioned, that Professor *Duvernoy* at Paris has sent to the Rep. a drawing and description of a high brachycephalic skull of very remote age, which was found in 1849, not far from the surface of the earth during the digging of a road in the valley of the Doubs, not far from Mandeuse. Professor *Duvernoy* is himself of the opinion that it must have belonged to one of Attila's warriors, because in this neighborhood the ruins of an old Roman town destroyed by *Attila* is situated. It has exactly the form of a Finlandian skull not pressed. What a consternation did the deformed skulls of Huanches Indians, which Pentland brought from Titicaca in Peru, not excite? What a surprise to see the various skulls which were so changed in form, and were first made known by *Morton's* work, *Crania Americana*! This absurd and barbarous custom was considered to belong only to the savage heathens of America. Through the skull found at Grafenegg, attention has been turned to the question, how far this same barbarous custom has reigned also in the ancient world; more and more evidences affirming this opinion have been found. As is above seen, we have had the proofs of this fact in the ancient authors from the old and middle ages, without taking notice of them. To the important dates quoted by Dr. *Filzinger* and M. *Troyon*, the Rep. takes the opportunity to add some more. In the excellent historical work by Amédée *Thierry*, *Attila*, of which the Rep. only knows Dr. Edward *Burckhardt's* translation, (*Attila* Schilderungen aus der Geschichte des fünften Jahrhunderts, Leipzig, 1852,) is mentioned, where the author has shown, that the proper Huns were Finlanders from the Ural and the valley of the Wolga, but that with them were under the same government, Turks, and probably Mongols, beside later Slaves, etc., and that Attila himself, and part of his people have been delineated as belonging to the Kalmuck type. In a note, page 15, about the custom of changing the form of the head, he has the following: "The image of Attila is more like that of a Mongol than of a Finlander from the Ural. Besides we know that the Huns used artificial means for giving Mongolian physiognomy to their children; they made, namely, the nose flat, with firmly strained linen ribbons, and pressed the head to make the cheek bones projecting. What could be the reasonable cause of this barbarous custom, if not the effort to approach a form, which, among the Huns, was held in greater regard, in a word, the aristocratic race? The purpose quoted by the Roman authors, to get the helmet better fixed on the head, is scarcely credible. It seems more probable, that when the Mongols were masters of the Huns, the Mongolian physiognomy was the prize attached to aristocratic distinctions; they consequently tried to approach this form, and considered it an honor thus to deform themselves, in order to resemble the reigning nation. This is most likely the cause of those unnatural deformations which historical writers so particularly describe." This opinion agrees fully with that which the Rep. has supposed in his treatise "*Phrenology judged from an anatomical point of view*," and also with Prof. Eschricht "*Angaaende Betydningen af Hjerneskillens og hele Hovedets Formforskjellighed* (Skand. Naturf. Sällsk. Forhandl.)" respecting the same custom among the American savages. Thus we see more and more traces showing that this absurd custom formerly has been considerably common in the ancient world, and, after the authority of *Thierry*, we may suppose, that it principally and perhaps originally belonged to the Mongols, among whom the Rep. believes it has now ceased. Many who are interested in the study of skulls will surely be greatly astonished to hear, that this barbarous custom still exists in one of the most civilized countries of Europe, namely, in France. About this we have very interesting information in Dr. *Foville's* "*Traité complet de l'anatomie, de la physiologie et de la pathologie du système nerveux cérébrospinal. 1e partie, Anatomie*, Paris, 1844, page 632, art. "Déformation artificielle du crâne" etc.; et Atlas, Pl. 23, figs. 1, 2."

Dr. *Foville* says namely: "Dans plusieurs parties de la France, on coiffe les nouveau-nés de bonnets fixés sur la circonférence du crâne lui-même. Tantôt on commence par l'entourer d'un étroit et long triangle de toile, qui décrit plusieurs tours avant d'être arrêté, et par dessus ce serre-tête ou bandeau on place un bonnet rond à coulisses, dont les cordons sont serrés suivant

circonférence que ce serre-tête lui-même. Cette pratique est très commune en Normandie. Dans d'autres provinces on ne commence pas par entourer la tête d'un bandeau; on la couvre d'un bonnet rond, et ce bonnet se trouve ensuite assujéti par un nombre variable de tours de bande méthodiquement jetés depuis les bosses frontales jusqu'aux bosses pariétales. C'est ainsi qu'on agit à Toulouse et dans une grande étendue des pays voisins. Une constriction circulaire, suffisante pour fixer la coiffure ne peut manquer de faire céder la tête si tendre à cet âge. Ce qu'elle perde alors en largeur, elle le gagne en excès de longueur; et c'est ainsi que se trouvent produits ces crânes allongés et cylindroïdes, (voy. pl. 22 et 23, fig. 1), quelquefois même étranglés dans le milieu de leur longueur, qu'on rencontre en proportions variables dans presque toutes les maisons d'aliénés de France, mais surtout dans celles des départements où la méthode adoptée pour la coiffure des enfants implique une constriction circulaire. On trouve des personnes du Limousin, de Bretagne, du Nord et du Nord-Est de la France avec une déformation évidente du crâne dont la cause ne peut être douteuse. . . . A Paris, où se trouvent rassemblés des habitants de toutes les parties de la France, toutes les habitudes de nos provinces se trouvent importées, et les déformations du crâne produites par les coiffures vicieuses ne sont nullement rares."

The 23d engraving in Dr. *Foville's* work shows three side-faces of women whose skulls are formed very like the Hunish. Dr. *Foville* has, in quality of chief-physician at the great asylums for insane in the Department Seine-inférieure and Charenton, had occasion to examine the skulls of a great number of country people. Here he has found several individuals with thus artificially formed heads. Though he expresses the opinion that the deformity does not disturb the functions of the brain, he believes that it does not seldom promote disorders which finally cause mental derangement. This does not agree with *Morton's* opinion about this circumstance among the American Indians. It is more probable that the worthy author here has taken post hoc for propter hoc. He mentions two different manners of constricting the head. It seems not probable that this custom is intended for changing the form of the head; it rather seems as if it remained unconsciously from the time of Paganism, and will as many other prejudices, first cease by some particular accident. The inhabitants of Normandy were Norwegians; the race which before inhabited the country is probably not yet extinct. On the contrary we believe that here, as in many other countries, the ancient population lives beside the more aristocratic conquering nation. This latter, the Rep. has himself had occasion to observe, keeps still the true Norman type. Doctor *Foville* himself, of Normannic family, is a beautiful proof of this. The Rep. does not believe that the pressing of the head does derive from the Norwegians. The skulls of fig. 1, 2, tab. 23 of his work, do not show the least resemblance with the Norwegian dolichocephalic ones; but rather seem to be brachycephalic. The skull, tab. 22, is, according to the opinion of the Rep., of genuine gaulic type, low, long, dolichocephalic, not artificially formed. It was taken in a churchyard at Paris, and we know nothing about the person it has belonged to. It is worthy of attention that this custom is common in Bretagne, the old county Toulouse, and in several places where the Celtic race is the predominant one, these countries have before been inhabited by Celts and first by Iberians. In Bearn, where the Iberian race is the most numerous, the constriction of the head is, according to Dr. *Foville's* account, not used. After all these facts have been mentioned, the question naturally arises: Has this custom arisen by itself separately in the Old and New World, or does it not bear witness of a communication between the New and Old World? The Rep. hopes on some other occasion to return to the question.

ELECTIONS.

Mr. George H. Humphreys and Mr. Hilborn West, of Philadelphia, and Mr. C. J. Hering, of Surinam, were elected *Members*, and

1 r. Guido Sandberger and Dr. Fredolin Sandberger, of Wiesbaden, were elected *Correspondents*.